

Message Text

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GENEVA FOR ABRAMS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:ILO, PORG

SUBJ: GOVERNOR SCRANTON'S LUNCHEON MEETING WITH ILO DG
BLANCHARD, JULY 22

REF: GENEVA 5925

1. DEPT VERY CONCERNED ABOUT BLANCHARD'S VIEWS OF US-ILO
RELATIONS AS DESCRIBED IN PARA 6 REFTEL. MISSION REQUESTED
TO MEET WITH BLANCHARD AND ATTEMPT TO ELUCIDATE US VIEWS
OF US-ILO RELATIONS ALONG FOLLOWING LINES.

2. US IS NOT RPT NOT ANY CLOSER NOW TO FINAL DECISION ON
WITHDRAWAL THAN IN PAST. NOT ENOUGH POSITIVE SIGNS HAVE
BEEN NOTED TO WARRANT OPTIMISM EXPRESSED BY BLANCHARD.
DESPITE SOME POSITIVE ASPECTS, CONFERENCES REVEALED CON-
TINUING TENDENCY TOWARD POLITICIZATION AND ATTEMPTS TO
VIOLATE DUE PROCESS WHICH WERE CITED AS MATTER OF CONCERN IN
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LETTER OF INTENT.

3. ALTHOUGH IT IS CLEAR THAT SPECIAL US EFFORTS IN PAST MONTHS HAVE HAD SOME IMPACT, SERIOUS PROBLEMS STILL REMAIN, AND NEED FOR CONTINUED EFFORT IS EVIDENT. NOT CLEAR THAT SUPPORT US IS GETTING IS TEMPORARY (RESULT OF LETTER OF INTENT) OR REFLECTS PERMANENT COMMITMENT BY SOME COUNTRIES TO JOIN IN REFORM EFFORTS.

RECENT CONFERENCES - ESPECIALLY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE - HAD FEW MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES (OTHER THAN PLO) WHERE DEGREE OF COMMITMENT COULD BE DEMONSTRATED; MOST ISSUES WERE PROCEDURAL. JUNE 1977 CONFERENCE MAY BE BETTER TEST. MORE IMPORTANT ANYWAY THAT POSITIVE TREND BE ESTABLISHED RATHER THAN ONE-SHOT CHANGE OF ATTITUDE AMONG A FEW MEMBER COUNTRIES. US, HAVING REACHED NO FINAL DECISION, IS ASSESSING ILO RELATIONS AS IT GOES ALONG AND MANY FACTORS WILL ENTER INTO FINAL DECISION WHEN IT IS MADE.

4. DESPITE SOME POSITIVE RESULTS OF CONFERENCES, US NONE-THELESS UNHAPPY WITH ROLE ILO OFFICE PLAYED. SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS GAVE INTO POLITICAL PRESSURES AND WORKED MUCH TOO ACTIVELY TO SUGGEST WAYS IN WHICH LDC'S COULD BEND PROCEDURES AND RULES TO REACH THEIR OBJECTIVES, CLEARLY ANTAGONISTIC TO US GOALS. EXAMPLES INCLUDE PLO ISSUE AND LAST MINUTE ATTEMPTS TO CHANGE WEC FINAL DOCUMENT. EM-MERIJ'S ROLE IN PREPARATION AND RUNNING OF WEC WAS CONSISTENTLY NEGATIVE.

5. CURRENT DECISION TO REQUEST NO FUNDS FOR ILO IN FY 1978 BASED ON US LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW. UNTIL SUCH TIME AS LETTER IS WITHDRAWN IT WOULD BE INCONSISTENT TO REQUEST FUNDS. PRESIDENT'S BUDGET FOR FY 1978 NOT PUBLIC UNTIL JANUARY 1977. AT THAT TIME, MOST IMPORTANT THAT DECISION ON WHETHER TO REQUEST FUNDS BE CONSISTENT WITH STATUS OF LETTER IN ORDER TO ENHANCE CREDIBILITY WITH CONGRESS AND OTHERS. IF AND WHEN US DECIDES TO STAY IN ILO, BUDGETARY PROVISION WOULD BE MADE. KISSINGER

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